

DFL Weekly SITREP (23 MAR 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty News:

- a. During the month of March, MAJ Dewayne White is deployed to the Ground Forces Institute in Almaty Kazakhstan for an instructor exchange. West Point is currently hosting his counterpart, COL Nurlan Kiiizbaev, the deputy head of tactics at the Ground Forces Institute.
- b. On March 9, Professor Can Wang, from the Chinese Section of the Department of Foreign Languages, introduced elementary school students from the Monroe North Main Street Elementary school to some Chinese language and culture activities. Professor Wang taught the students about the animals of the Chinese zodiac, some simple Chinese characters, Chinese games, and how to use chopsticks.



Professor Can Wang demonstrates how to use chopsticks to the elementary school students at Monroe Elementary school

2. Cadet Events and Academic Trips: During Spring Break, DFL faculty members accompany cadets on immersion trips in order to apply and enhance cadets' language and culture skills and knowledge through experiences in authentic contexts. This week's report and the report for next week will highlight some of these spring immersion opportunities.

- a. From 12-20 March, Lieutenant Colonel Brady Crosier led a group of 10 cadets on a Chinese spring immersion trip to Changchun and Beijing, China. They visited many different cultural and tourist attractions, parks, restaurants, and shopping areas while practicing their Chinese language skills in an immersion setting. Some of these cultural attractions included the last emperor Pu Yi's museum in Changchun, the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Ming Dynasty Tombs, the Sacred Walk into the Ming Tombs, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, Jingshan park, and Jilin and Beijing Universities.



Lieutenant Colonel Brady Crosier and China Spring Immersion Trip cadets Apphia Kim, Charles Llewellyn, Sang Won Kim, Matthew Rohrback, Tessa Shakon, Lee Ann Schade, Julius Kim, Robert Melvin, Kaoru Song, and William Killinger pose besides the newly appointed “Army Mule” during their tour of the Sacred Walk into the Ming Tombs.

- b. From 12-20 March, Lieutenant Colonel Brady Crosier conducted semester abroad site maintenance visits at both Jilin and Beijing Universities in China. At the invitation of the US Embassy's Defense Attaché Office and the West Point Alumni Association in Beijing, Lieutenant Colonel Crosier, the five semester abroad cadets studying at Beijing University, and the ten China spring immersion trip cadets also attended the 2011 West Point Founder's Day Dinner in Beijing.
- c. From 10-20 March, MAJ Fagergren and Dr Giacalone conducted a site visit and spring immersion trip to Brazil with nine cadets. They visited the Brazilian Military Engineering Institute in Rio de Janeiro and the Military Academy in Resende Brazil. Cadets were able to view a Carnival parade, Championship Soccer game, shoot host nation weapons, and ride horses with the Brazilian military.



Cadet Naomi Fuhrman participates in horsemanship at the Brazilian Military Academy



Cadet Cody Waterman fires a 9mm pistol at the Brazilian Military Academy

- d. From 12-20 March, MAJ Douglas Willig led a group of five cadets on a cultural immersion trip to Berlin, Dresden, and Hamburg Germany. The cadets experienced not only the German culture and language, but also observed snapshots of the political, military, and higher education systems of our ally. The trip included an insider tour of the Reichstag (German Capitol Hill), a tour and briefings from the administration of the German Officer School in Dresden, a culture program hosted by the international office of the Helmut-Schmidt University in Hamburg, and a highlight of the trip - attendance at a soccer game between Hamburg and Cologne.



Cadets Zach Silvis, Zach Credle, Nate Einfeldt, Chris Best, Caleb Guzik, and MAJ Doug Willig stand overlooking the floor of the German government assembly in Berlin.



Cadets Chris Best, Nate Einfeldt, and Zach Credle pause to reflect on the remnants of the Berlin Wall at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin.

3. Hosting Visitors:

From 7 - 10 March, The Commandant of the King Abdul Aziz Military Academy of Saudi Arabia, MG Abdul-Aziz Ali al-Khaled, visited our basic Arabic and Military Writing and Readings (Arabic) classes. The cadets and our guests enjoyed learning about each other and their respective military academies, with discussions taking place entirely in Arabic!



MG Abdul-Aziz Ali al-Khaled and his staff visit COL DiMeo's Military Readings in Arabic section.

4. Upcoming Key Events:

- a. On 2 April, four cadets will compete in the 2nd "Chinese Bridge" East America Chinese Proficiency Competition for foreign college students, at the New York Service Center for Chinese Study Fellows. The competition aims to provide a well-established stage for American college students to show their talent in Chinese language and to learn Chinese culture. In order to encourage the participation of more students who are enthusiastic in Chinese culture, a junior group and a senior group have been set up for contestants who differ in their level of Chinese proficiency. All finalists will be awarded a scholarship for studying in China.
- b. On 4 April, The President of Beijing University, ZHOU, Qifeng, and his delegation will officially visit West Point and conduct office calls with the Superintendent, Dean, and the Acting Department Head for Foreign Languages.